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T20 WORLD CUP: NEW YORK TO BEEF UP SECURITY FOR INDIA-PAKISTAN GAME

With the arch-rivals set to play their first match on June 9, the NY state has said that security will be beefed up for the high-profile encounter

INCREASED MEASURES FOR NASSAU COUNTY

As Nassau County gets ready, 'elevated' security arrangements have been made to ensure fans' safety. This comes after reports of threats linked to ISIS in April and more specific threats on the event now. "In preparation for @cricketworldcup, my team has been working with federal & local law enforcement to keep attendees safe," governor Kathy Hochul wrote on X

EXPECT LARGEST SECURITY FOR MATCH

■ Nassau County police acknowledged the threat and reportedly said this is "largest security we've ever had to do in this county's history and the safest place will be inside the stadium"
■ While the governor wrote that "there is no credible threat at this time", security measures have been elevated to ensure safety of all

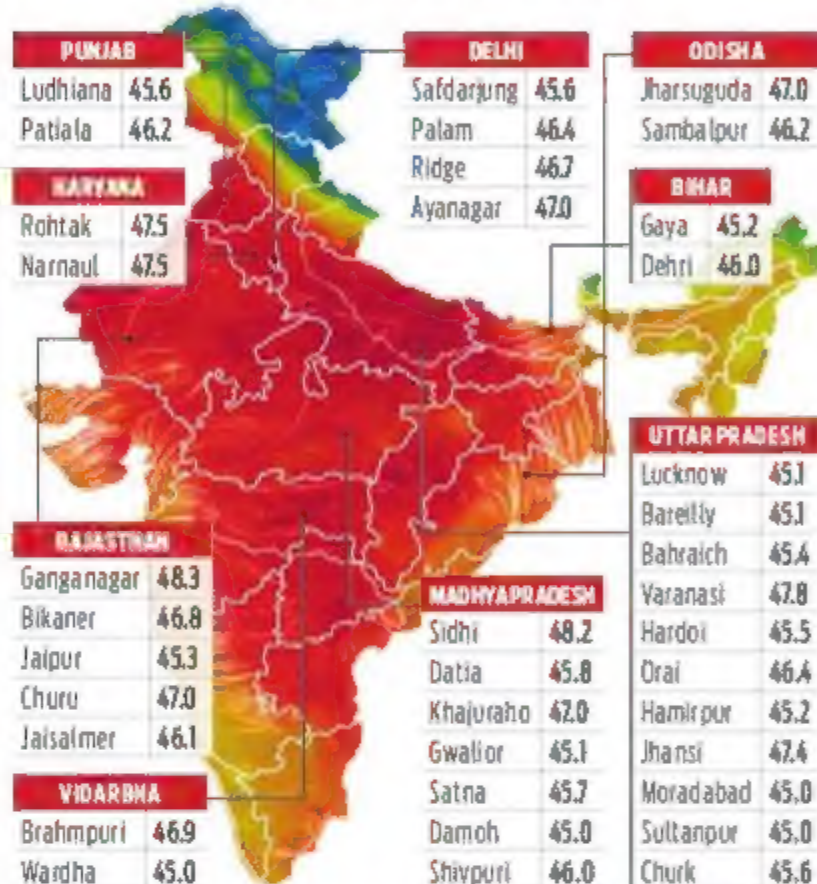
34,000

CAPACITY OF STADIUM WHERE EIGHT MATCHES WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 3-12

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIVANWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTCHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • DHUBANEWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • THIRUPATI • THIRUCHY • TRINEVELLI • SAMBAPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADIPALLADI • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUVRUTHI • KALABURGI

MONSOON ARRIVES IN KERALA; NORTH CONTINUES TO BAKE

EXPRESS MAPS
RED HOT DAY



UNBEARABLE HEAT IN THE NORTH, WEST

Heat wave to severe heatwave conditions prevailed over many parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, East MP; parts of UP and Odisha. Many parts of Punjab, West MP, Chhattisgarh, parts of Bihar, Gujarat and Vidarbha and isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, too, witnessed heat wave

TO EASE GRADUALLY

Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions over parts of Northwest and Central India are likely to reduce gradually, the Met office said



A woman carries a pipe to fetch water from a tanker amid the ongoing heat wave, at Chanakya Park in New Delhi on Thursday | PPT

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

WHILE most of India continued to bake in the ongoing extreme heat wave, the Southwest monsoon arrived in Kerala two days ahead of schedule on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department announced.

The monsoon set in over Kerala and Mahe and advanced into most parts of the Northeast. The normal day for the monsoon's arrival in Kerala is June 1. The earliest arrival of the monsoon in Kerala were on May 18 (1990), May 22 (1999) and May 23 (1974).

The IMD forecast this monsoon season (June-September) is likely to be above normal — 106% of the Long Period Average (LPA). It will be above normal over Central India and South Peninsular India, normal over North-west India, and below normal over Northeast India.

Experts say the monsoon's progression is likely to be on the slower side due to unfavourable Madden-Julian Oscillation — an oceanic-atmospheric phenomenon defined as eastward moving clouds, rainfall, winds and pressure at regular intervals. However, it will accelerate over eastern and northern parts after June 15.

"Slow progression of monsoon towards north India may lead to further extended heat wave period," said Dr Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Above normal rainfall is good news for agriculture and food security. Around half of the workforce in the country is still dependent on farming for their livelihood. Last year's deficit (6% of LPA) and uneven monsoon had impacted food production and the overall agrarian economy. The acreage and production of kharif crops such as pulses, oilseeds and cotton was reduced, which pushed agricultural growth below 1% and raised food inflation. Experts expect better monsoon this year would address the challenge.

Prajwal returns, SIT arrests him at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SLEUTHS of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) arrested Hassan JDS MP Prajwal Revanna at 1.10 am on Friday, after he landed at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) from Munich at 12.50 am.

Personnel of CISF whisked him away from Terminal 2 to the Immigration centre at KIA, where officials completed the mandatory checks and handed him over to the SIT sleuths.

The MP, who flew to Germany on April 27 with his diplomatic passport, boarded the Lufthansa flight (A350-900) at the Munich International Airport. The Munich-Bengaluru flight, which was supposed to take off



A video grab of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna (in hoodie) being led away by SIT sleuths and CISF personnel, at KIA on Friday

at 12.05 pm (3.35 pm India time), took off after a delay of 23 minutes (3.58 pm India time). In a video message on Monday, Prajwal stated that he would appear before the SIT on Friday at 10

am. Since then, the SIT sleuths were on high alert. On Thursday, they coordinated with the local police, CISF personnel and immigration officials on taking the accused MP into their custody in a smooth manner.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told reporters on Thursday that arresting an accused in a foreign country is not easy. Even the Centre has no powers to do so. The Interpol coordinates with the member countries in this regard. Since the special court for elected representatives has issued an arrest warrant against Prajwal, he will be arrested at the airport. "We have written to the Centre to cancel the MP's diplomatic passport. Even the Centre has confirmed it."

P4



PM's 45-hr 'dhyanam' at rock memorial begins

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kanniyakumari

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi began his 45-hour-long 'dhyanam' (meditation) scheduled to go on till June 1 at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari district around 7 pm on Thursday.

The PM's helicopter from Thiruvananthapuram landed at the helipad at the Tamil Nadu state guest house at 5.10 pm. After staying for a brief while at the guest house, the PM visited the Bhagavathi Amman temple located 200 metres from the guest house and offered worship. Clad in a white dhoti and shawl, Modi prayed at the temple and circumambulated the 'garbhagriha'. Priests performed a special 'arthi' and he was given temple 'prasad' that included a shawl and a framed photograph of the presiding deity of the temple. Later, he reached the rock memorial by a ferry service operated by the Tamil Nadu government-owned shipping corporation.

Immediately after entering the memorial, the PM showered flowers on the portraits of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and mother Sri Sarada Devi. He also paid floral tributes to the life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda kept on a pedestal at the mandapam before commencing his meditation.

Following the culmination of the hectic Lok Sabha election campaign in which he addressed a multitude of rallies and after vociferous protests by the opposition, the PM will be meditating in an ambience of quietude. Over 2,000 security personnel have been deployed in the district and fishers of three villages have been barred from fishing for three days.

Final chance to protect Constitution, former PM tells Punjab voters

Campaign ends, Modi holds over 200 rallies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his Lok Sabha poll campaign with a rally in Hoshiarpur. The count of his rallies and roadshows reached 206, going past the close to 145 such events in the 2019 polls

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN an emotional appeal to Punjab's voters ahead of the final phase of the Lok Sabha elections, former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh on Thursday said it's their final chance to ensure that "democracy and Constitution are protected from the repeated assaults of a despotic regime trying to unleash dictatorship in India".

In a three-page letter shared on X by the Congress, Singh came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "indulging in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature". "People of India are seeing through all of this. This narrative of dehumanization has now reached its peak. With folded hands, I appeal to each one of you to give love, peace, fraternity, and harmony a chance in India," he said.

Mounting a sharp attack on the PM, he said that Modi is the first prime minister to lower the dignity of public discourse and the gravity of his office, adding no PM in the past had targeted a specific section of the society or the opposition in this manner.

In his first response to Modi's allegations of Singh's politics of Muslim appeasement, the former PM said that he never singled out one community from the other. "No prime minister in the past has uttered such hateful, unparliamentary, and coarse terms, meant to target either a specific section of the society or the opposition. He has also attributed some false statements to me. I have never in my life singled out one community from the other. That is the sole copyright of the BJP," said the senior Congress leader, who led the UPA government for two consecutive terms from 2004-2014.

As for Modi, he kept up his attack on the Congress at his rally in Hoshiarpur, rebuking it for ranting about the Constitution when it was the one that "strangled" it during Emergency. He also blamed it for the anti-Sikh pogrom in 1984.



The BJP thinks that the value of patriotism, bravery and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism
Manmohan Singh's swipe at the Agniveer scheme

22 killed in J&K bus accident

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AT least 22 pilgrims were killed and 57 others injured after a bus carrying them fell into a 150 ft deep gorge in Akhnor area of Jammu district in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. The accident took place when the driver of the bus, which was on its way to Shiv Khori shrine in J&K's Reasi district, lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve.

Jammu district magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya said the passenger bus was carrying pilgrims from Hathras, Uttar Pradesh.

President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives while the local administration has ordered a magistrate inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident.



Rescue workers at the accident site near Chouli Choura area of Akhnor | PPT

A joint rescue operation launched by the locals, police, and army men immediately after the accident helped save several trapped passengers. The injured persons were

evacuated to a nearby hospital, where from 36 were further referred to the Government Medical College in Jammu for specialized treatment. The toll could go up as the condition of six persons is serious.

"Pained beyond words to learn about the loss of lives in a bus accident in Akhnor near Jammu. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured," President Murmu said in her condolence message shared on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced compensation of ₹2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured passengers.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 for those injured in the accident.

maiah. "I have credible information that black magic rituals were performed at an isolated place near a temple in Kerala to destabilise our government in Karnataka. They performed 'raja kantaka' and 'marana mohana sthambana' yagas. People privy to the black magic rituals

performed in Kerala gave us information about those behind the yagas," he claimed. Shivakumar said that he is a believer and people's blessings will protect him and Siddaramaiah. "These yagas were performed by aghoris and we have information that 'pancha ball'

rituals were performed. Twenty-one goats, three buffaloes, 21 black sheep, and five pigs were sacrificed. Let them do whatever they want. The forces which we believe in will protect us. I always offer prayers before leaving home," he added.

"We know who had done these yagas. Those who are politically active will be targeted. Let them do it. I only believe in god and I don't believe in black magic," the DCM said.



DKS: 21 goats, 3 buffaloes, 21 sheep, 5 pigs sacrificed to shake govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday alleged that "tantriks" in Kerala had performed black magic against him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to destabilise the Congress government in the state.

Addressing reporters here, Shivakumar said the "tantriks" performed "shatru bairavi yaga" against him and Siddaramaiah.

"We know who had done these yagas. Those who are politically active will be targeted. Let them do it. I only believe in god and I don't believe in black magic."

DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Dry days between June 1 & 6: No cheers for F&B players

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

SALE of liquor will be affected for five days across the state. There will be no sale of liquor on June 2, 4 and 6. Partial sale of liquor will be allowed on June 1 and June 3. This is in view of MLC elections and counting of votes of Lok Sabha and Council polls.

Those in the food and beverage (F&B) industry said that it is a big blow to them. They have already been affected by a ban on liquor sale from April 24 to 26 for Lok Sabha elections in the state.

An operational head of one of the biggest restobars at Marathahalli in the city told The New Indian Express that dry days in the beginning of the month will have harsh consequences on the business.

"The ban starts on Saturday evening when we organise corporate parties and other

events. This will result in a loss of over Rs 30 lakh a day," he said.

Owners of restobars in the city claimed that they are among the top tax contributors. However, they are being frequently singled out and the ban on sale of liquor will be a major setback to them. They derive approximately 40% of their profits from liquor sales that go up to 60% during weekends.

Representatives of the National Restaurants' Association of India (NRAI) said they had requested the authorities to allow pubs and restobars to serve food. However, the authorities have not taken a decision yet. They have also moved the court in this regard. "At least, orders should be issued to allow us to offer food service to minimise the losses," Shiva, a representative, said.

CONTINUED ON P5